

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00093 211438Z

62

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 210733Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0093

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,CG, DM, OAU

SUBJ: ANGOLA: ZAIRIAN REACTION TO BENIN STANCE

REF KINSHASA 340,

1. DURING TOUR D'HORIZON WITH DCM, ZAIRIAN AMB MUABI KUMUAMBA DISCUSSED BENIN'S POSITION ON ANGOLA AND ITS PERFORMANCE AT OAU SUMMIT. KUMUAMBA NOTED THAT BENIN'S REP AT THE MEETING, FORMER AMB TO THE US AND UN TIAMOU ADJIBADE (RECENTLY NAMED AMB TO THE FRG) WAS ESPECIALLY NASTY IN HIS ADDRESS AT ADDIS. HOWEVER, KUMUAMBA CITED ONLY ALGERIA AND GUINEA AS COUNTRIES WHICH HAD PARTICULARLY ANGERED PRES MOBUTU DURING THE MEETING. ACCORDING TO KUMUAMBA THE FACT THAT BENIN WAS ONLY REPRESENTED AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WAS AN INSULT TO THE CHIEFS OF STATE PRESENT.

2. ZAIRIAN AMB HAS EITHER NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS RE CLOSING OF HIS EMBASSY OR WAS CLEVERLY COVERING UP. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION ON HIS DEMARCHES OF PAST FEW WEEKS ON BENIN GOVT, HE COMMENTED THAT ALL ZAIRE COULD DO HERE IS TALK. HE SAID ZAIRE HAD NO LEVERAGE, EXCEPT PERHAPS THE THREAT TO BREAK RELATIONS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE HIS GOVT WOULD GO THAT FAR.

3. AMB KUMUAMBA HAD BEEN TO FORNMIN JAN 16 AND AGAIN JAN 19.

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HE CLAIMS PURPOSE WAS TO PROTEST OFFENSEIVE LANGUAGE IN

EDITORIAL ON AOU SUMMIT PUBLISHED IN GOVT-RUN NEWSPAPER
JA 15. EDITORIAL BRANDED MODERATE AFRICAN STATES WHICH DID NOT
SUPPORT MPLA AS TRAITORS TO AFRICA (COTONOU 73 BEING REPEATED
KINSHASA).

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR, FROM KUMUAMBA'S REMARKS ON
CURRENT STATE OF BENIN-ZAIRE RELATIONS, THAT A BREAK OR EVEN
A LESS DRASTIC CHANGE IN ZAIRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD BENIN IS
NOT IMMINENT. PERHAPS DECISION TO CLOSE ZAIRE EMBASSY HERE,
REPORTED REFTEL, HAS SINCE BEEN REVERSED OR POSTPONED.
ENGLE

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NNN

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